

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claim 20 is new. The Examiner has issued an election/restriction requirement. The Examiner indicates that claims 1-4, 7 and 10-12 are generic claims and requests the Applicant to elect a single objective from Group A, a single objective from Group B and a single objective from Group C as listed in the Office Action of March 20, 2006.

With respect to Group A, the Applicant elects the growth objective as recited in claims 5 and 14.

With respect to the Group B requirement, the Applicant elects the lactate bioengineering objective as recited in claim 18.

With respect to the Group C requirement, the Applicant elects the bilevel optimization problem, as recited by claim 8.

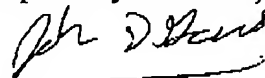
Although election is made from each of these groups, it is respectfully submitted that examination of the non-elected species would not be unduly burdensome. The Examiner is asked to reconsider the necessity of the election/restriction requirement during the search should it become clear that examination of additional species is not unduly burdensome.

New claim 20 has been added. Claim 20 depends from claim 1 and includes the cellular objective of maximizing a growth rate as found in claim 14. Thus claim 20 is consistent with the election from Group A.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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